

# HALSEY MCKAY GALLERY

## STUDIO LENCA - *LISTO*

March 25 - April 30 | 79 Newtown Lane, East Hampton, NY

For all further information please contact [info@halseymckay.com](mailto:info@halseymckay.com)



Studio Lenca, *Flee*, 2023, Oil and acrylic on canvas, 59 x 47.25 inches

Halsey McKay is pleased to present, *Listo*, a solo exhibition of new paintings from Studio Lenca. The exhibition will run concurrently with *Chisme*, on view March 12 - April 16, at the Parrish Art Museum in Water Mill. Studio Lenca is the working name of artist Jose Campos – ‘Studio’ referring to a space for experimentation and constantly shifting place; ‘Lenca’ referring to the name of the artists ancestors from El Salvador. Campos was born in La Paz, El Salvador and like many had to flee the country during its civil war during the late 1980s. He travelled to the US by land, illegally with his mother and grew up in the gaze of a strictly conservative administration - an ‘illegal alien’. Studio Lenca is focused on ideas surrounding difference, knowledge and visibility. Studio Lenca’s process starts with personal memories and is underpinned by social activism and different forms of praxis.

The four paintings on view tell an autobiographical story which navigates borders and identities destroyed, redrawn and erased through colonisation and war. The portraits depict the artist and his community proudly wearing hats and vibrant colors in noble defiance of the ‘western’ discourse around migration. Campos uses the oversized hat, saturation and bold pattern to take take control and reclaim space in an environment where his subjects are forced to stay hidden from authority and violence.

Studio Lenca received a master's degree in art in 2019 at Goldsmiths, University of London. Recent solo exhibitions have been held at The Parrish Art Museum, Water Mill, NY; Soho Review, London, UK; Artual Gallery, Beirut, Lebanon; Tang Contemporary, Seoul, Korea; Foundry, Dubai, UAE; Sierra Metro, Edinburgh, UK. Group exhibitions include Hospital Rooms X Hauser & Wirth, London, UK; Edji Gallery, Paris, FR; Noho Showroom, London, UK; Studio 11 Rome, IT; Y.E.S. Contemporary Museum of Art, El Salvador, among others. *Listo* marks the artist's first exhibiton with the gallery.